WHAT IS CLAIMED

Sub a1

1. A bony tissue resecting system, comprising:

a cannula having a side aperture near its distal end; and

a rotatable resecting element received within the cannula.

2. The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, wherein, the rotatable resecting element can be distally advanced within the cannula.

3. The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, wherein, the rotatable resecting element has a hollowed out distal end.

~~4.~~ 3 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, further comprising:

a cannula positioning system adapted to move the cannula from a first position to a second position, wherein the cannula points in the same direction at each of the first and second positions.

~~5.~~ 4 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, further comprising:

a cannula positioning system adapted to move the cannula from a first position to a second position, wherein the orientation of the cannula in the first position is parallel to the orientation of the cannula in the second position.

~~6.~~ 5 The bony tissue resecting system of claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the cannula positioning system comprises:

a support which is rotatable about a central axis, wherein the support holds the cannula in an orientation such that the central longitudinally extending axis of the cannula is parallel to the central axis of the support.

~~7.~~ 6 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, wherein, the cannula has an enclosed tapered end.

Sub a2

8. A method of resecting a portion of a bony tissue joint, comprising:

positioning a cannula adjacent a bony tissue joint such that a portion of the bony tissue joint is received within a side aperture in the cannula, wherein the side aperture is disposed near the distal end of the cannula; and

distally advancing a rotatable resecting element through the cannula such that the rotatable resecting element resects the portion of the bony tissue joint received within the side aperture of the cannula.

9. 8 The method of claim 8, wherein, the cannula is positioned adjacent the bony tissue joint by rotating a cannula support about a central axis, wherein the cannula support holds the cannula such that the central longitudinally extending axis of the cannula is parallel to the central axis of the cannula support.

10. 9 The method of claim 8, wherein, the rotatable resecting element is advanced distally such that tissue resected from the bony tissue joint is received within a hollowed out distal end of the rotatable resecting element.

11. 10 The method of claim 8, wherein, the rotatable resecting element is advanced distally such that tissue resected from the bony tissue joint is received between a closed distal end of the cannula and the distal end of the rotatable resecting element.

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